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Israeli Dismayed at Prospect

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JERUSALEM, June 18 — A senior Israeli official expressed great disappointment tonight at the prospect that the United States might indict Col. Aviem Sella of the Israeli Air Force.

The official said Israel made it known to the State and Justice Departments several days ago that it was ready to allow investigators to question Colonel Sella in exchange for his immunity from prosecution, Government sources said today.

Israeli officials said they thought that the State Department was sympathetic to the idea of resolving the case without going through the courts but that there had been resistance from the Justice Department.

Jonathan Jay Pollard, a United States Navy intelligence analyst, pleaded guilty two weeks ago to spying for Israel. Colonel Sella, along with Rafael Eitan, an Israeli counterterrorism expert; Yosef Yagur, the science attaché at the Israeli consulate in New York, and Irit Erb, a Washington embassy secretary were named as co-conspirators in the case but were not indicted.

"Israel is ready to allow Justice Department investigators to question Colonel Sella in return for immunity from prosecution," a senior Israeli Cabinet official said tonight. "In fact, we would welcome the opportunity. I think we have to keep in mind that all that is known up to now about Sella's alleged involvement comes from Pollard's testimony, and I think that a great deal could be clarified through an

American discussion with Sella."

Another senior Israeli official said Tuesday that any interview of Colonel Sella would depend on agreement on mutually satisfactory limits on the questioning. The official added that the conditions for any questioning would have to be similar to the previous "friendly discussions" between American investigators and other Israelis involved in the spy scandal.

Last December, Abraham Sofaer, the State Department legal adviser, came to Israel with a team of American investigators and spent a week questioning Mr. Eitan, Miss Erb and Mr. Yagur about their involvement in the Pollard spy operation. In return, the three were granted immunity from prosecution since the information they were conveying was potentially self-incriminating.

In those discussions, the Israeli officials never mentioned Colonel Sella's alleged involvement in the spy affair. Israeli sources say that they told United States investigators that there was someone who introduced Mr. Pollard to Mr. Eitan. However, the sources said they never mentioned the name of Colonel Sella, and the investigators only asked if the intermediary was American.

According to Mr. Pollard's indictment, it was Colonel Sella who put Mr. Pollard in contact with Israeli espionage officials and received from Mr. Pollard several stolen secret documents that he funneled to Israel in the early stages of his activities.